

Emergency Preparedness and Response – Goal #5

Report on the Activities of the Regional Task Forces and the Border-wide Workgroup



Border 2012
U.S.-México National Coordinators Meeting
March 8-10, 2005
Tucson, Arizona

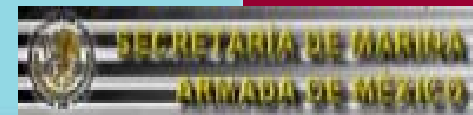
Goal 5: Reduce exposure to chemicals as a result of accidental chemical releases and/or acts of terrorism

Objectives

1. By 2004, a chemical emergency advisory/notification mechanism between Mexico and the United States will be clearly established.
2. By 2008, all 14 sister cities joint contingency plans will be in place and operating (including exercises), with the establishment of bi-national committees for chemical emergency prevention (or similar border forums).
3. By 2012, 50% of sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related efforts, such as risk and consequence analysis, risk reduction, and counter-terrorism.



Emergency Preparedness and Response Partners



Emergency Preparedness and Response Organization and Implementation

- ◆ State and Local Emergency Response Agencies
- ◆ Task Forces
- ◆ PROFEPA – Federal and State Delegates
- ◆ Protección Civil – Federal, State and Municipal
- ◆ USEPA – Federal and Regional

Accomplishments

- ◆ Sister City Plans
- ◆ Task Forces
- ◆ Grants
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Exercises

Accomplishments

- ◆ Guidance Documents and Field Guides
- ◆ Risk Assessments
- ◆ Research on reimbursement and insurance coverage for US local responders to conduct a binational response

BWWG Priorities for 2005

- ◆ Invigorate the Joint Response Team
- ◆ Revise the Joint Contingency Plan (JCP)
 - Update protocol to ensure prompt notification of polluting incidents in the border area to emergency officials
- ◆ Help obtain emergency response equipment, provide binational training and conduct exercises

2005 Regional Workgroup Priorities

Arizona/Sonora Task Force

- Update Ambos Nogales Sister City Plan
- Consolidate 2 Sister City Plans into one new Cochise County/Sonora Plan
- Finalize and distribute Bilingual Field Guides
- Conduct exercises in the Cochise County/Agua Prieta area
- Initiate Cooperative Agreement Pilot project for local responder reimbursement and insurance
- Hold a Task Force / industry workshop to better involve private sector risks and resources

2005 Regional Workgroup Priorities

Tijuana / San Diego & Imperial County / Mexicali Task Forces

- Finalize and sign Mexicali/Imperial County ER Plan
- Develop and conduct an Inspector's training in Spanish to standardize chemical inventory and risk assessment information
- Develop infrastructure for an Emergency Management Academy in Tijuana; begin conducting training
- Conduct an exercise in the San Diego / Tijuana area
- Initiate a Cooperative Agreement Pilot project for local responder reimbursement and insurance
- Hold a Task Force / industry workshop to better involve private sector risks and resources

2005 Regional Workgroup Priorities

**Texas / Tamaulipas / Nuevo León / Coahuila
&**

**Texas / New Mexico / Chihuahua
Task Forces**

- Update existing Sister City Plans
- Provide training to local first responders
- Conduct bi-national exercises to test and improve the Sister City Plans
- Perform risk analysis of hazardous chemicals that may pose a threat to local communities

Key Challenges

- ◆ Obtain personal protective and response equipment to local/state Mexican responders
- ◆ Improve coordination efforts between US and Mexico border-wide federal agencies (PROFEPA and OEM Reorganizations)
- ◆ Reach agreements with the US Dept of Homeland Security (and Customs) and Aduana in Mexico to facilitate border crossings
- ◆ Obtain Cross Border Insurance for US Local and State Responders
- ◆ Obtain funding for local and state PROFEPA and Protección Civil officials

Emergency Preparedness & Response

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